Ray's Charges Said To Be Self-Serving

Men who were law enforcement officials in Memphis when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot discount James Earl Ray's testimony that the assassination resulted from a conspiracy between the FBI and the Memphis Police Department.

All the officials interviewed agreed that Ray's allegation before the House Assassinations Committee yesterday was false.

Henry Lux, who was the Memphis police chief in 1968, shrugged off Ray's accusations.

"It's so ridiculous that it hardly requires an answer," he said. "All the facts point to James Earl Ray as the killer and (indicate) that he acted alone."

Lux said he is not surprised that Ray is pointing an accusing finger at other persons. "You are looking at a man who is in jail — his object is getting out."

Ray claimed new FBI documents show that a police conspiracy led to King's death. He told the committee that an undercover policeman was the first person to reach King after he was felled by gunshots at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The officer supposedly pointed to the boarding house, where Ray had been living for two days, as the origin of the shots.

Ray contends that when the killing occurred he was at a Memphis gas station repairing a damaged tire on his white Mustang.

Lux said that Ray is not the only one with an ulterior movtive for his latest testimony. He said Ray's lawyer, Mark Lane, who has written a book on the tragedy, probably is adding more pages for a sequel with all the recent publicity.

"Lane is getting a lot of headlines," Lux said.

Robert Jensen, who was the FBI director in 1968, brands Ray's recent disclosures as "absurd."

"I am not the least bit ashamed of what the Memphis Police Department and the FBI did," Jensen said. "My conscience is clear."

Frank Holloman, then city police director, said Ray's testimony should not be treated seriously.

"I don't see where it merits a comment," he said.

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1978